

REMARKS

Applicants note that the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance, attached to the Notice of Allowability, indicate that claim 7 is allowable because "the prior art of record fails to disclose or teach the recited dropper covering a portion of the ice tray extending upward from an upper end of the tray . . ."

Applicants have reviewed claim 7 and do not find the quoted language in claim 7.

Claim 7 recites a combination of features, including a dropper. Claim 7 recites, with respect to the "dropper," the following language:

a dropper having an inclined surface and being provided at an upper part of the ice tray for discharging ice stored within the ice tray via the ejector to the upper part of the ice tray and downward along the inclined surface of the dropper; and

* * * * *

wherein the dropper comprises a top plate having an inclined upper surface, and a side of the dropper adjacent to the central axis of the ejector is higher than an opposite side of the dropper.

Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's statement to the extent that that statement predicates patentability on features that are not recited in claim 7.

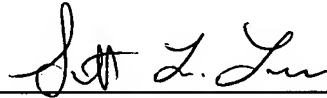
However, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 is allowable for the combination of features that it does recite.


If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future submission, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit

Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By: 
James T. Eller, Jr. #41,458
Reg. No.: 39,538

JTE/RJW:mmig 

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
Telephone: (703) 205-8000